Concessions In Licences For Restarting Closed Textile Mills

402. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to the Reserve Bank of India to give concessions in licences for restarting the closed textile mills; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Textile labour Resettlement Fund Scheme

403. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Textile Labour Resettlement Fund Scheme and the relief being provided thereunder;

(b) whether the scheme has been successful in safeguarding the interests of labourers in Gujarat; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund has been set-up to provide interim relief to workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of a textile unit which has been closed down on or after 6th June, 1985 and has been registered either with Textile Commissioner, or under Industries (D&R) Act, 1951. Relief under the scheme is available only for 3 years on a tapering basis- 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year of the closure of the unit, 50% in the second year and 25% of the wage equivalent in the 3rd year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in in view of (b) above.

[*English*]

Housing Facilities to Poor by national Housing Bank

404.SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the special measures proposed to be taken by the National Housing Bank for Providing housing facilities to the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): National Housing Bank (NHB) being an apex level financial institution, one of its main functions is to provide refinance assistance to the primary lending institutions such as scheduled commercial banks, housing finance companies, apex cooperative housing finance societies etc. The refinance scheme of the Bank have been so structured that there is in-built bias in favour of poorer sections of the society. Further, the refinance schemes of NHB stipulate that all the loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs disbursed by the primary lending institutions for construction of a house upto 40 Sq. mtrs. would be fully refinanced by NHB. In case the area exceeds 40 Sq. mtrs. but the cost does not exceed Rs.1.50 lakhs, refinance is available upto Rs. 1 lakh. The loans disbursed other than these, are not refinanced by NHB.

Similarly in the case of refinance for projects under the Land Development and Shelter Projects, it has been stipulated that 75% of the houses constructed should be of the size not more than 40 Sq. mtrs. and no house should have an area exceeding 120

Sq. mtrs. NHB has entered into Memorandum of Understandings with the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for extending financial assistance for resettlement of slum dwellers. Under the Home Loan Account Scheme of NHB, minimum, contribution has been kept as low as Rs. 30 per month.

[*Translation*]

Token Strike by Bank Employees

405. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days on which the employees of various Nationalised Banks went on token strike during the last one year alongwith the names of the banks and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of such strikes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) According to Indian banks' Association, during the preceeding 12 months, no industry wide All India strike by employees in the Banking Industry has been reported to it. However, in individual banks, officers/workmen did observe token strike on different dates over local issues.

(b) Since strikes etc. are called by theUnion/associations, they cannot be averted by the Government alone. However, cancISIllations/dialogues with the unions are usually attempted by the Indian Banks Association/Management/Labour authorities to avert intended strikes.

[*English*]

Lending Rates for Agriculture Sector

406. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the credit policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the hike in the lending rates covers the agriculture sector also;

(c) if so, to what extent;

(d) whether the hike in lending rates for agriculture sector is in contravention of rates suggested by the Reserve Bank Committee on Agriculture and

(e) if so, the reasons for such increasing in lending rates for Agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced the credit policy for the second half of the financial year 1991-92 on October 8,1991. The Key changes made by RBI in the credit policy included a one percentage point increase in the Bank Rate, a 1.5 percentage point increase in lending rates, an increase in the shorter-term deposit rates, increase in export credit interest rate, liberalisation of export refinance and reduction in cash margins, withdrawal of certain refinance facilities and reduction in the interest rate on banks' cash balances with the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) to (e). The lending rates of scheduled commercial banks have been raised across the board by 1.5 percentage points with effect from October 9, 1991. Thus, lending rates now range from 11.5 per cent to 20. 00 per cent (minimum) as against 10.0 per cent to 18.5 per cent (minimum) hitherto. The lending rate structure is applicable to all bank borrowers including those belonging to agricultural sector and the concessionality in the rate is linked to the size of the loans. However, interest rates on term loans to